

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00119 021902Z

66

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /095 W

----- 122638

R 021726Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 542

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS BELFAST 119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK (NI)

SUBJECT: PUBLISHED COMMENTS OF LEADING POLITICIANS ON INAUGURAL
ASSEMBLY MEETING

REF: BELFAST 117

THERE FOLLOWS A SELECTION OF STATEMENTS MADE TO PRESS
FOLLOWING THE JULY 31 ASSEMBLY MEETING BY SOME OF ULSTER'S
LEADING POLITICIANS.

A. FAULKNER ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE LOYALIST COALITION
"DISGRACEFUL" BUT SAID IT "MAY HAVE BEEN A BLESSING IN
DISGUISE." "IT MAY SO DISGUST THE PUBLIC THAT IT WILL DO
SOME GOOD" HE SAID. "IT WAS NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF ANY OF
THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED THE ASSEMBLY. OBVIOUSLY THERE WERE
PEOPLE WHO CAME SO THAT THEY COULD ATTEMPT TO WRECK THE
ASSEMBLY - NOW THE ELECTORATE KNOW WHO ARE THE WRECKERS AND
WHO ARE THOSE TRYING TO BRING ABOUT A GENUINE
PARLIAMENT. THEY HAVE MADE THEIR CHOICE AND THEY WILL HAVE TO
ACCEPT IT." ON THE ASSEMBLY "AS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ASSEMBLY,
I AM CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC IN A WAY THIS PERFORMANCE MAY HAVE
DONE SOME GOOD BECAUSE I AM CERTAIN THE PUBLIC WILL BE SO
DISGUSTED THAT THE MESSAGE IS BOUND TO GET ACROSS THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00119 021902Z

ELECTED MEMBERS MUST BEHAVE SENSIBLY AND RESPONSIBLY."

B. FITT ON BEHAVIOUR OF LOYALISTS "IT WAS AN ABSOLUTE CHARADE AND A VERY SAD EVENT FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY. IT WAS TERRIBLY OBVIOUS THAT THERE WAS DETERMINATION TO WRECK THE ASSEMBLY FROM THE START. THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE DUP-VUPP COALITION AND THE UNIONIST PARTY 'REBELS' WAS NO CREDIT TO THOSE WHO ELECTED THEM." ON THE ASSEMBLY "THE SDLP IS DETERMINED TO MAKE THE ASSEMBLY A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION AND WE WILL USE IT TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT THE CREATION OF A JUST SOCIETY HERE FOR ALL CLASSES AND ALL CREEDS."

C. ROBERT COOPER ON THE ASSEMBLY. HE SAID HE WAS NOW MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN EVER. "TO ME THE GREAT DANGER OF GETTING A POWER SHARING EXECUTIVE," MR COOPER SAID, "WOULD HAVE BEEN IF THERE HAD BEEN A COALITION OF THE VARIOUS UNIONIST FACTIONS, BUT TUESDAY'S MEETING PROVED THAT THE DIVISIONS BETWEEN THE ANTI-WHITE PAPER UNIONISTS AND THE PLEDGED UNIONISTS IS SO DEEP IT CANNOT BE CROSSED. IT SEEMS TO ME NOW THAT THERE IS A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY OF BEING ABLE TO GET AN EXECUTIVE CONSISTING OF THE SDLP, THE OFFICIAL PLEDGED UNIONISTS AND THE ALLIANCE PARTY. IN THIS EXECUTIVE NOT EVEN THE UNIONISTS WOULD HAVE A MAJORITY WHICH I BELIEVE IS GOOD SENSE."

D. CRAIG ON THE COALITION BEHAVIOUR. "WE HAVE ACTED IN THE WAY WE DID TO SHOW THAT THE ASSEMBLY IS AS A RUBBER STAMP FOR ANYONE." SPEAKING ABOUT THE LOYALIST COALITION 'ADJOURNMENT' UNTIL SEPTEMBER 4, MR CRAIG CLAIMED, "THIS WAS A LEGAL DECISION BINDING THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY AT THAT MEETING," HE SAID "WE SHALL PROBABLY MOVE THAT THE ASSEMBLY MEET IN THE OLD HOUSE OF COMMONS. IF NECESSARY, WE SHALL TAKE LEGAL ACTION TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER TOO."

E. PAISLEY DECLARED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT IF THE ASSEMBLY MET BEFORE SEPTEMBER 4 -- THE DATE THE LOYALISTS HAD DECIDED ON -- THEY WOULD REGARD THIS MEETING AS "UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND ILLEGAL." THE DUP LEADER REJECTED CLAIMS HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE DETERMINED TO WRECK THE ASSEMBLY. HE DECLARED "WE CAN SEE NOW WHO ARE THE TRUE WRECKERS - THEY ARE THE UNIONISTS AND ALLIANCE AND THE SDLP. WE HAD A QUORUM AND WE CARRIED ON OUR MEETING IN AN ORDERLY MANNER. I SUGGEST THAT THE ASSEMBLY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BELFAS 00119 021902Z

GOT OFF TO A GOOD DEMOCRATIC START."

F. JOHN TAYLOR COMMENTING ON THE FIRST DAY PROCEEDINGS SAID "I WISH TO PLACE ON RECORD THE SHAMEFUL PERFORMANCE BY MR BRIAN FAULKNER AND A MINORITY OF UNIONIST REPRESENTATIVES WHO WALKED OUT OF THE ASSEMBLY DURING THE DEBATE AND SO NOT ONLY ACTED AS WRECKERS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE ASSEMBLY BUT ACTED LIKE THE SDLP OF TWO YEARS AGO WHO ALSO WALKED OUT

OF THE FORMER HOUSE OF COMMONS. IT IS UNFORTUNATE AND UNIONISTS
THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE SHOULD RECORD THIS FACT THAT MR
FAULKNER AND HIS MINORITY UNIONIST GROUP SEEM INTENT TO WRECK
THE ASSEMBLY AND BOYCOTT ITS SITTINGS IF THE MEMBERS OF THE
ASSEMBLY DO NOT ACCEPT WITHOUT BESTION THE DICTATES OF
MR WILLIAM WHITELAW. THIS WAS THE ISSUE AT STAKE TODAY."
SINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELFAS00119
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730863/aaaabuhy.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BELFAST 117
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <20-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUBLISHED COMMENTS OF LEADING POLITICIANS ON INAUGURAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
TAGS: PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005